

Proclamation 5755 of December 23, 1987**Year of New Sweden, 1988**

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

The year 1988 is the 350th anniversary of the arrival, in what is now Delaware, of two ships, the *Kalmar Nyckel* and the *Fogel Grip*, which were sent by the Kingdom of Sweden to establish New Sweden, the first permanent settlement of Swedes in North America. Celebration of this occasion gives every American the opportunity to pay tribute to those courageous colonists and to all who have followed them from Sweden to America.

Swedish Americans have won a place in the history and heritage of the United States, and they continue their tradition of notable achievements today. Two Swedish Americans associated prominently with the American Revolution were John Morton of Pennsylvania, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and John Hanson of Maryland, who presided over the Continental Congress in 1781 and 1782. More than a million Swedes came to the United States between 1845 and 1910, and more than four million Americans today have Swedish ancestry.

We can all be truly proud of the contributions of Swedish Americans to our beloved land, of the close ties between the United States and Sweden over the years, and of the devotion to democracy that our peoples share.

The Congress, by Public Law 99-304, has designated 1988 as the "Year of New Sweden" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim 1988 as the Year of New Sweden. I call upon the Governors of the several States, local officials, and the people of the United States to observe this year with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twelfth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5756 of December 23, 1987**National Skiing Day, 1988**

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

National Skiing Day gives all Americans the opportunity to celebrate the continuing role of skiing in recreation, sports, and our economy, as well as its place in American life and lore.

Many Americans first discovered both the potential uses and the attractions of skiing from reports of the achievements of an early skier, pioneer mail carrier John A. "Snowshoe" Thompson, who transported letters and parcels in a backpack as he covered his 90-mile territory through the Sierra Nevada. During his two decades of devoted service, 1856–1876, he won a well-earned reputation for heroism and faithfulness as he traversed the mountains, first on his large, handmade skis and later by sleigh, to keep frontier communication open between Nevada and California.

Since then, other dedicated Americans have employed skiing in the defense of our country, in rescue operations, and in similar activities.

Through the years, skiing has experienced revolutions in equipment, technique, and participation. Wood skis were replaced by metal ones, which then gave way to fiberglass, and bindings have improved greatly. Today some 15 million Americans engage in Alpine or Nordic skiing, and highly skilled and dedicated skiers and biathletes vie for coveted positions on America's Winter Olympics squads.

Skiing, of course, offers many benefits. In the areas of health and fitness, Alpine skiing's courses improve strength and flexibility, and Nordic skiing's cross-country trails build endurance. Skiing helps people improve coordination as they attain or maintain good physical condition. Skiing provides enjoyment for spectators as well as participants, fosters appreciation for the outdoors, and affords the opportunity to enjoy winter and its splendors. Skiing also increases the recreational uses of national forests and provides winter employment and income for residents of rural communities.

In recognition of skiing and its benefits, the Congress, by Public Law 100–189, has designated January 8, 1988, as "National Skiing Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim January 8, 1988, as National Skiing Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twelfth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5757 of December 23, 1987

National Day of Excellence, 1988

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Theodore Roosevelt once said: "The foundation stone of national life is and ever must be the individual character of the individual citizen." Nowhere has that fact been better demonstrated than in our national